Etienne Balibar – On Masses and Concepts for Marxism (1989)

By Etienne Balibar

I. Concept of Politics

When Alain Badiou argues for a pure singularity and even meta-politics and even singular processes with Sylvain Lazarus – he argues it is just about a mode of politics.

II. My Opposition towards Marxism

Instead we move to Marxism and Marxist

theory and remember Althusser.

A concept of politics therefore is about – the masses or even the popular unity or even populism today or finally ideas for the intellectual rights of the citizens.

I mean we should be more generalist and less singular – against

Badiou we argue for such theses.

III. Conceptual Politics and Economics

Therefore economics today is about the concept of mixed economics as in fact what is called “economic welfarism, or even economic Keynesianism”

In the next phase it will be “neoliberalism”.

Such economic prudence and economic power and even power towards the economic process should be conflicted with the process of mass agitation, or democratic politics, just that succeeding for the left is then victory – oppose neoliberalism and

strengthen economic welfarism with a politics of mass demonstrations for the Communist politics even.

IV. Notes for Althusserianism of the Warren Montag type

Against the eclectic habit – one must in fact conceptualise it – not contingency and aleatory Wandering, der

fallen – but in fact its opposite which is about Marxist centralism and democracy in the party – mass politics and party politics.